

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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S E C R E T STATE 069042

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MASS, SP, MO (LOPEZ BRAVO, GREGORIO)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ BRAVO:

SPANISH F-5 S TO MOROCCO

1. DURING CALLS ON SECRETARY ROGERS AND UNDER SECRETARY PORTER, LOPEZ BRAVO RAISED SUBJECT OF MOROCCAN SITUATION, EMPHASIZING GOS CONCERN WITH DETERIORATING INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION, WEAK POSITION OF KING HASSAN AND SPECTRE OF SOVIET'S GAINING FOOTHOLD IN MOROCCO.

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2. GOS FORESEES CHAOTIC SITUATION DEVELOPING IN MOROCCO IF KING LEAVES SCENE, WITH MOST LIKELY OUTCOME A LIBYAN-STYLE TAKEOVER INIMICAL TO WESTERN INTERESTS. SPANISH HAVE DECIDED AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST MOROCCAN MILITARY AGAINST GUERRILLAS, IN FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT ANY WEAPONS PROVIDED COULD BE TURNED AGAINST SPAIN UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. GOS BELIEVES IT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO BACK KING HASSAN TO HILT. AGAINST THIS BACKDROP OF DOMESTIC UNREST GOS VIEWS RECENT MOROCCAN-USSR CONTACTS AS SINISTER DEVELOPMENT WITH GREAT POTENTIAL FOR HARM TO WESTERN INTERESTS SHOULD MOROCCO GRANT BASING FACILITIES TO SOVIETS, FOR EXAMPLE.

3. MOROCCANS HAVE REQUESTED F-5 S, ACCORDING LOPEZ BRAVO,

AND GOS ANXIOUS SUPPLY THESE AIRCRAFT TO GOM. GOS HAS SOME 18 F-5 TRAINERS AND FIGHTERS NOW AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER TO MOROCCO IF USG APPROVAL FORTHCOMING. GOS DOES NOT WANT FILE FORMAL APPLICATION FOR SALE IF REQUEST NOT LIKELY TO BE APPROVED, AS DOES NOT WISH RISK TURN-DOWN AS IN LIBYAN REQUEST. SPANISH WOULD ALSO PROVIDE PARTS AND TRAINING TO GOM.

4. LOPEZ BRAVO WAS TOLD THAT WE WATCHING MOROCCAN SITUATION CLOSELY BUT DO NOT BELIEVE SOVIETS LIKELY GAIN FOOTHOLD IN MOROCCO AT PRESENT. WE DO SHARE SPANISH CONCERN OVER DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS AND WISH STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH GOS ON MOROCCAN SITUATION. LOPEZ BRAVO WAS PROMISED A SPEEDY REPLY ON THE F-5 QUESTION. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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